Art Study de Luxe At Laurelton Hall

First Band of Tiffany Foundation Students Draw Abundant Inspiration From Their Beautiful Surroundings

IF, as somebody has said, God created the world to give the painters something to paint, then He collected in small compass so many natural beauties in the suave hills and valleys of Cold Spring Harbor, L. I., as if to furnish a band of art students de luxe, so to speak, with choice material for brush and pencil. The students are there, guests of the Louis Comfort Tiffany Foundation, and although they have been at work only six weeks they already show the inspiring influence of these surroundings.

The Tiffany place, so beautiful by nature and rendered doubly so by man, existed last fall, but the art school or foundation only on paper, for it was then that the owner announced the board of trustees who were to carry out his long cherished wish, which was to create with eighty acres of his great estate and his home, which he calls Laurelton Hall, a place where young artists of ability might gather to study through the summer and have their material wants so taken care of as to practically remove consideration of them from the young students' minds. It is now a fact accomplished and the first band, eight in number, is installed.

Ideal Surroundings.

These young men, New York citizens with one exception, found a large building of stucco of a Spanish style ready for them. It comprises a series of pleasant chambers, living room, lounge and writing rooms, built around a great enclosed court which is an immense general studio. Individual studios are likewise provided. There are a squash court and a bowling alley in the long wing which joins the studio proper to the conservatories of the hall. The latter, no more than the living rooms, are not bare spaces, utilitarian merely, but the eye is pleasantly interested by objects of art, fine and industrial, set about everywhere without crowding or incongruity. For instance, the bowling alley is also a gallery filled with choice examples of basket work.

It must be known by this time, since Mr. Tiffany's plans have had wide notice, that the rich collections and the library of his home are for the use of the resident students at their discretion. Advantages like these rarely have fallen to the art students since the days of Lorenzo di Medici. In addition to the inspiration to be drawn from them in the direction of actual performance this art life of every waking moment should elevate the faculty of criticism into an instinct.

It's a great privilege for an artist to be able to live with art every day and all day. The English have been described as a people who take their religion Sundays and their art in the spring; that is, when the Royal Academy opens. Americans are not very different in these respects from their British cousins, and in this country, too, influences that should permeate life are collected in chunks at particular seasons, showing how little they are really felt or understood.

The Tiffany Foundation is intended to change this view of art, and Laurelton House and the new school should cultivate the lovely idea of art for every day. Everything in Mr. Tiffany's house carries it and tells that the owner has the true Platonic touch, glorifying and gilding the simplest as well as most complex things. His pictures, except the Chinese and Japanese, are housed in a separate building, for it is Mr. Tiffany's belief that paintings dwell best together. Of all forms of art painting is the one whose effect is instantaneous, simple and self-complete. A vase, a jar draws from its surroundings and is often mute until it is advantageously placed. If a picture cannot speak for itself no amount of stage setting will save it.

Of the young artists who gladly indorse this idea as a fundamental the association does not prevent each one from doing his own work in his own way, and the new foundation helps his effort to develop himself and does not bind him to strict rules of any kind. At present there are two embryo portrait painters, a sculptor, a genre painter and four landscape men in the school. That they will stick in a hard and fast way to any particular form of expression may be doubted, but in certain instances the trend is so pronounced that the sticking may be confidently predicted. This is especially true of a young artist whose genre subjects, worked out by etching and by oil, show so much talent and skill that anybody would feel justified in advising him to stick to his last.

"I didn't come here without misgivings," confided one of the artists, "for in the first place the promises seemed too good to be true, and I felt that I might be diverted from the way I wanted to go by the very wealth of beauty inside and outside of this place. Of course, I would be a fool if I dreamed of being a painter and did not respond to beauty, and I wasn't a fool; what I hesitated over were things I had read in description of artistic things to be seen here.

"You can perceive by my work, and I don't say it is very good, that I am trying to let the colors I see in tree and water strike their own chords. That's my idea of studying nature. Nothing is gained by calling colors harmonies or symphonies, and pictures don't need words like those to make their meaning clear. At least that's what I think, and it seems right to me. I don't want to be diverted from it, either.

"Well, I have not been seeing in vain the beautiful things here that Mr. Tiffany has spent his life in producing and collecting. Nobody has attempted to graft any art ideas on me so far, but, on the contrary, Mr. Tiffany and Mr. Lothrop are always encouraging us to be courselves.

"The life here is what you see, a perfect one for the student who wants to work without being trammelled or bothered. We expect to have visits from some famous artists and to get the benefit of their criticisms, and when that happens the opportunity to progress will be perfect."

Aimless Ones Are Barred.

Casual remarks by others in the school bore out what the first painter said. The director, Mr. Lothrop, who lives in the building with the artists, phrased the thought in these words:

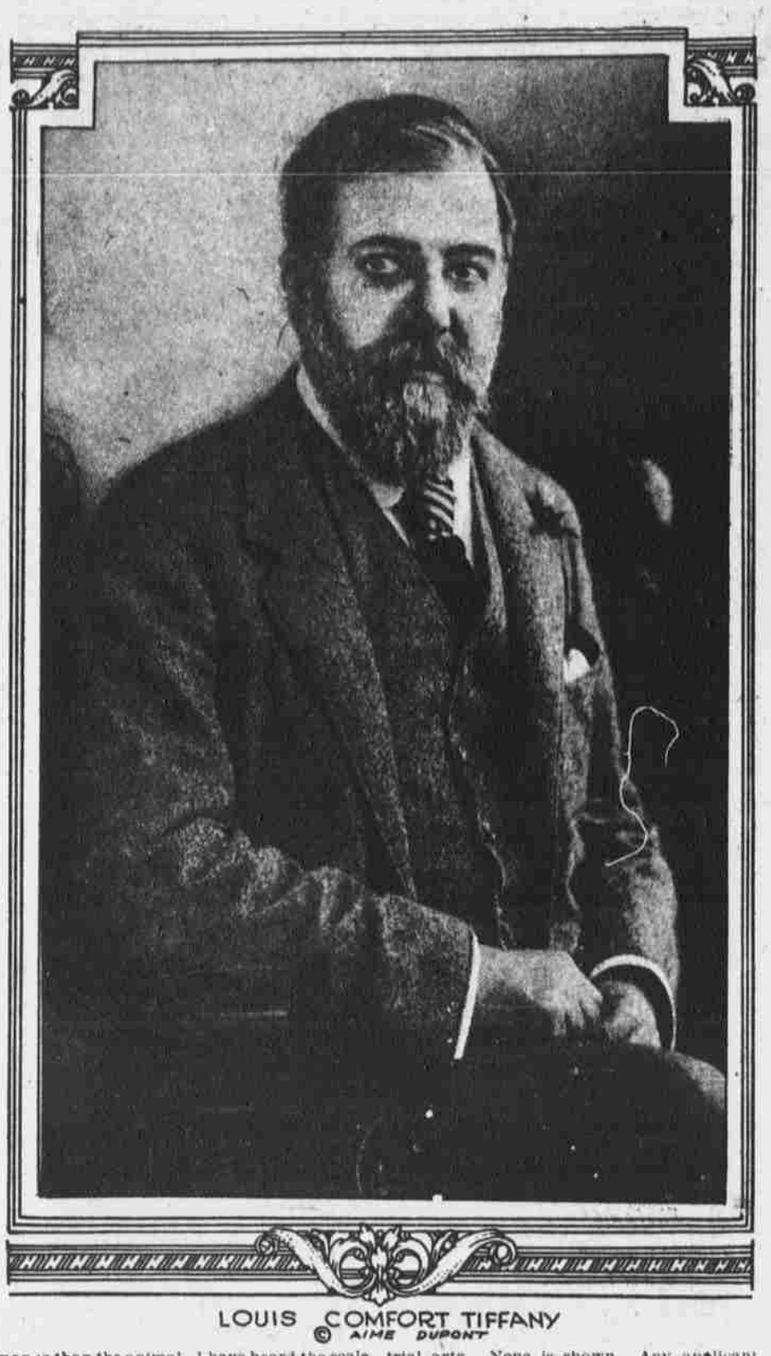
"Nobody is invited here to be the idle heir of treasures amassed by somebody else. I have no doubt that good æsthetic qualities could be developed in any average mind by permitting him to look at the pictures here and study the books, &c. If he was blank to these things at first he would acquire enough appreciation to be able to enjoy them.

"But the Tiffany Foundation is not being erected for the mere appreciative person without a scrap of originality and who finds every temptation to enjoy but none to create. On the contrary, if you read the prospectus you will see that our students must show talent as well as a serious purpose. Mr. Tiffany's desire is to develop artistic talent of any kind along its own lines. The bee that sucks at every flower and is not even required to make honey must fly to some other garden.

"It has been a joy to see that the students who already form a nucleus of this splendid and generous foundation are animated by a fever of work. I personally was not keen to display the work of the students the other day when a large number of guests came to visit Mr. Tiffany and look over the school. The reason was that the students had been here too short a time. But none of their time here has been wasted. The young artists fairly flew to their brushes in the delight of painting what they saw.

"Another thing. It may be thought that creative artists are the only persons sought. That would sadly limit the work, I fear, for creation that comes from overconsciousness is rare. The creative instinct is higher in the scale of existence than the man as the man is than the animal. I have heard the scale described as the conscious (animal), the self-conscious (human being), and the overconscious (creative artist). Overconsciousness may be a curse like the primitive curse, labor, but there are few thinking men who would not welcome it.

"Surely a very loud welcome will be given to this supreme type of humanity by the Tiffany Foundation when he appears there, but until he does talent will have a hearty and sympathetic welcome."



LOUIS COMFORT TIFFANY
© AIME DUPONT

The visitors referred to by Mr. Lothrop were representatives of the various societies from all over the country which make up the Arts Federation of America. It had been celebrating in and around New York its eleventh annual convention, and on the last day paid a visit to the foundation by Mr. Tiffany's invitation. The ratio of women and men among the representatives was, of course, about five to one in favor of the women, and that sex could not help but feel envy because the foundation is as yet limited to men. The plan is, however, to provide quarters for women artists next year. With other details of management the women expressed admiration.

One of these details is the period of study to which students are admitted, the summer season being divided into two parts of three months each, no student will be accepted for a shorter period than one of these, and at the student's request this period may be extended to six months—that is, from May 1 to November 1, provided the character of his work already accomplished meets with approval.

The visitors were eager to learn the steps necessary to become a resident pupil, and whether preference was given to applicant painters, sculptors or workers in the industrial arts. None is shown. Any applicant for residence must be a citizen of the United States and between the ages of 18 and 30. His application for the first half should reach the director on or before March 1 and for the second period applications may be filed up to June 1. Any application should be accompanied by letters from three or more well known artists, eminent in the same art as the seeker's, whose opinion of his eligibility and talent will carry weight. An illustrative specimen of the student's work also is required.

Living Conditions.

Students provide the materials for their art and arrange for their personal laundry. Each is assigned to a room for himself accessible to a bath or shower, and with board in the dining room, for which a charge of $10 a week is made. There are no other expenses. Each student must give the foundation an opportunity to acquire some specimen of his work done during his residence at Laurelton.

An additional item of information was brought out by the natural curiosity of the women visitors to know all that was to be known about this new art school. It is that several scholarships of $250 each are offered for students of exceptional qualifications, for which special application must be made.

There is an advisory art committee which will pass on applications and award scholarships; it is made up of Cass Gilbert, Harry W. Watrous, Paul Manship, Frederic Wilson, Barry Faulkner, Mrs. W. A. W. Stewart and Robert Vonnoh. Mr. Tiffany and the artist members of the board of trustees of the foundation, who are Daniel Chester French and Francis C. Jones, are by virtue of their office members of this art committee.

Maine Celebrities In the Limelight

Centennial Brings to Mind Many Sons and Daughters of Pine Tree State Who Are Known to Fame

INTEREST in Maine's illustrious history, revived by the coming centennial celebration, brings out no chapter more striking than that which tells what the world owes to the sons and daughters of the Pine Tree State. The list of men and women to whom tribute will be paid when the State's 100th birthday is officially celebrated at Portland, June 28 to July 5, is a long as well as a notable one.

In all the wars, from the Revolutionary down to the World War, Maine has done more than her share. Her sons and daughters have been no less distinguished in peace time pursuits, in statesmanship, art, science, literature and other lines.

In Maine's Hall of Fame.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, America's greatest poet, was born at Portland. Sir Hiram S. Maxim, inventor of the Maxim machine gun, first saw the light of day at Sangerville. His equally famous brother, Hudson Maxim, inventor of smokeless powder, is a native of Orneville. Lillian Nordica, one of the world's greatest singers, was born at Farmington, and Artemus Ward, the renowned humorist, at Waterford.

Franklin Simmons and Benjamin Paul Akers, two of the world's greatest sculptors, were born respectively at Webster and Westbrook. The Rev. Elijah Kellogg, whose name will always live as the author of "Spartacus to the Gladiators," and other orations, as well as the famous Elm Island stories for boys, was born at Portland. Maxine Elliott, the renowned actress, and Gertrude Elliott, her talented sister, now the wife of Sir Johnston Forbes-Robertson, are natives of Rockland.

Many world renowned authors also were born in Maine, among them being John S. C. Abbott, the celebrated historian, at Brunswick; Elizabeth Akers Allen, author of "Rock Me to Sleep, Mother," and other famous poems, at Strong; Rebecca Sophia Clark, famed writer of children's stories under the nom de plume of Sophie May, at Norridgewock; Sewall Ford, creator of the "Shorty and Torchy" stories, at Levant; James Otis Kaler, known to hundreds of thousands of boy readers under the pen name of James Otis, at Winterport; Sarah Payson Parton, one of the best known women writers of the last century, under the pen name of Fannie Fern, at Portland; Harriet Prescott Spofford, famous writer, at Calais; Sarah Orne Jewett, at South Berwick; Holman F. Day, popular novelist, at Vassalboro, and Jacob Abbott, author of the Rollo books, at Hallowell.

Few people are aware of the fact that Edgar Wilson Nye, known to the world as "Bill Nye," the famous humorist, was born at Shirley, near Moosehead Lake. Cyrus H. K. Curtis, publisher of the *Saturday Evening Post*, *Ladies' Home Journal* and other widely known publications, was born at Portland, and Frank A. Munsey, proprietor of *Munsey's Magazine*, THE SUN AND NEW YORK HERALD and other publications, was born at Mercer. George Palmer Putnam, founder of the publishing house of George Putnam Sons, first saw the light of day at Brunswick.

In Affairs of the Nation.

Many of America's greatest characters in history were born in Maine. Among these are Hannibal Hamlin, Vice-President of the United States with Lincoln, born at Paris; Sir William Pepperell, conqueror of Louisburg, at Kittery; Sir William Phipps, first Royal Governor of Massachusetts, first American on whom Great Britain conferred knighthood and the conqueror of Annapolis Royal, Nova Scotia, at Woolwich; Commodore Edward Preble, "Hero of Tripoli," at Portland; Gen. Joshua L. Chamberlain, "Hero of Little Roundtop," Gettysburg, and the man who received the actual surrender of Gen. Lee at Appomattox, at Brewer; Gen. Oliver O. Howard, famous civil war commander, at Leeds; Gen. Henry C. Merriam, inventor of the Merriam infantry pack, and renowned strategist, at Houlton; Gen. James A. Hall, noted artillerist, who opened the battle of Gettysburg, at Damariscotta, and Dorothea Lynde Dix, famed for her work for the insane and as head of the female nurses during the civil war, at Hampden.

Some of the most notable leaders in America's life also were Maine born, among them Thomas Brackett Reed, renowned parliamentarian and former Speaker of Congress, at Portland; John D. Long, former Secretary of the Navy and Governor of Massachusetts, at Buckfield; Rufus King, twice United States Minister to Great Britain and one of the principals in the drafting of the American Constitution, at Scarboro; William P. Frye, American diplomat and former acting President of the United States, at Lewiston; Lot M. Morrill, Secretary of the Treasury, U. S. Senator and Governor of Maine, at Belgrade; Melville W. Fuller, former Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court, at Augusta; William Widgery Thomas, American diplomat, Minister to Norway and Sweden and founder of the remarkable Maine Colony of New Sweden, at Portland; Nelson Dingley and Eugene Hale, widely known statesmen, born, respectively, at Durham and Turner; John A. Andrew, Massachusetts's noted civil war Governor, at Windham; Hugh McCulloch, famous financier and former Secretary of the Treasury, born at Kennebunk; Sergeant Smith Prentiss, one of America's most famous orators and said to be the greatest extemporaneous speaker that ever lived, at Portland; Gen. Neal Dow, Father of Prohibition and leader in public life, at Portland; Annie Louise Cary, world renowned singer, at Wayne; Nathaniel Parker Willis, at one time America's most popular essayist, at Portland; Sumner I. Kimball, father of the great coast life saving service of the United States, at Lebanon.

Other Maine born men who have achieved almost a worldwide reputation are Noah Brooks, author and friend of Lincoln, a native of Castine; Cyrus Hamlin, first president of Roberts College, Constantinople, Waterford; Walter M. Brackett, America's greatest painter of fish, Unity; Eastman Johnson, America's renowned portrait painter, Lovell; Prof. Dudley Allen Sargent, one of the best known directors of physical training in the United States, Belfast; George Otis Smith, director of the U. S. Geological Survey, Hodgdon; John F. Stevens, former Chief Engineer of the Panama Canal, West Gardiner; Richard Hawley Tucker, widely known astronomer and director of the great Lick Observatory at Mount Hamilton, California, Wiscasset; John Washburn, president of the Washburn-Crosby Flour Company at Minneapolis, Hallowell; Walter M. Lowney, chocolate manufacturer, Sebec, and many others almost equally as well known.

Some of the State's distinguished citizens, past and present, who while not born in Maine, achieved their success while residents of it. Among these was Rear Admiral Robert E. Peary, discoverer of the North Pole, who came of Maine stock. His home at the time of his death was on Eagle Island, Casco Bay, in the town of Harpswell. Formerly he was for several years successively a resident of the cities of Portland and South Portland and the town of Fryeburg. Other notables in this class are James G. Blaine, former Secretary of State and Republican nominee for President, who lived at Augusta; Gen. Henry Knox, first Secretary of War of the United States and Washington's Chief of Staff, whose home was at Thomaston; William Pitt Fessenden, former Secretary of the Treasury under Lincoln and famous American statesman, a lifelong resident of Portland; Emma Eames and Emilio de Gogorza, world renowned singers, who both live at Bath; Prof. Donald B. MacMillan, noted Arctic explorer, who makes his home at Freeport, and very many others.

Not a large State in area as compared with many in the Union, it is, however, of immense size when compared with those in its immediate vicinity.

Maine's First Settlement.

While Maine is only a century old as a State, in reality the territory was one of the first settled sections of North America. A colony had been established on its shores sixteen years before the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth, Mass., in 1620. The Maine coast, barring, of course, possible discovery by the early Norsemen, was first visited, it is believed, by John Cabot, the English explorer, in 1498, only six years after the discovery of the new world by Columbus. In 1501 the Portuguese explorer, Corte-Real, came to Maine, and in 1524 Verrazano, an Italian, sailing under a French commission, cruised along the coast. In 1525 a Spaniard, Gomez, discovered and named the Penobscot River Rio de las Gomes, or Stag River, and in 1526 the French explorer Thevet visited the territory and returned to Europe with a story of Norumbega, Maine's mythical city.

It was in 1565 that the renowned son of Great Britain Sir John Hawkins came to Maine and two years later three survivors of his second expedition crossed its interior, the first white men to visit any part of the present State away from the coast line. In 1602 Capt. Bartholomew Gosnold explored its southwestern shore and in 1603 Capt. Martin Pring, a British trader, discovered Casco Bay, on which is now located the city of Portland.

The premier attempt at settlement was made in 1604 by Sieur de Monts, the famous French explorer, who established the first colony in what is now the United States north of Florida, within the borders of the present State of Maine, on Neutral Island in the St. Croix River, near what is now the city of Calais. The renowned Champlain was a member of the party and cruised along the Maine coast as far east as the Kennebec River, naming Mount Desert Island. After a terrible year, in which the majority of the party died from exposure and disease, the colony was obliged to give up its existence.

First Ship Built in North America.

In 1607 the first English colony was established at Popham, at the mouth of the Kennebec River, by George Popham. This, with the colony at Jamestown, Va., founded the same year, were the first English settlements on the Atlantic coast. The little group, however, after the death of its founder was obliged to abandon the site. The colony, however, established one notable record, for it constructed, during its year of suffering, the Virginia, the first vessel to be built in North America.

In 1613 the French Jesuits organized a mission on Mount Desert Island and in 1614 the coast of Maine was visited by Capt. John Smith of Pocahontas fame. He was the first to apply the name New England to this northeastern section of the United States.

Only three years after the landing of the Pilgrims Capt. Christopher Levett established a trading post on one of the islands now within the limits of Portland, and in 1632 the foundations of the present city were established by George Cleeve and Richard Tucker.

The year 1775 was a memorable one in the annals of Maine. In June the first naval battle of the Revolutionary War, the first naval engagement of the present United States and the first time the British flag was struck to Americans on land or sea occurred off Machias, Me., when the British warship Margaretta was captured by the American ship Unity. The latter was commanded by Capt. Jeremiah O'Brien of Machias, often called the "Father of the American Navy," and for his notable achievement he was given a vote of thanks by Congress.

In 1779 Castine, whose career forms one of the most romantic pages in American history, was captured by the British, and it was in this engagement that the famous Sir John Moore, the subject of that immortal poem, "The Burial of Sir John Moore," received his "baptism of fire." In that battle Paul Revere, who only a few years before had made his memorable ride, led the Massachusetts detachment of troops.

The year 1814 was another notable one in the history of the State. During it the present city of Eastport was captured by the British and held as a part of Canadian territory for about four years. The second capture of Castine by the British also occurred, and a day or two later was fought the remarkable battle of Hampden, much overlooked by historians, and in which both American and British soldiers were killed, and the present cities of Bangor and Belfast captured.

On March 15, 1820, Maine officially became a separate State of the Union, up to this time it having been a part of Massachusetts and known as the District of Maine.

Subtle Figuring Magnifies Benefits of Longevity

Dr. Sadler Gives Reminder That Life's Average Span Has Been Increased Largely by Enabling the Unfit to Survive

By DR. WILLIAM S. SADLER.

IN presuming to discuss the next step in public health, I do not mean to infer that we are nearing completion of the present programme, but possibly it will help us to bring to a successful finish our war on the microbe and the contagious disease if we stop for a moment and take a bird's-eye view of the work that awaits us when we have more nearly completed our present tasks.

While it is true that with medicine and sanitary science we have brought about an increase in the average length of life of from thirty to thirty-five years in the last generation to a little over fifty-one years for men and fifty-two years for women in this generation, and while this is a signal triumph on the part of the health forces of the nation, nevertheless it does not really mean so much for the good of the race as it appears on the face.

Reversing the Law of the Jungle.

We are increasing the average length of life more largely by suppressing the great plagues and other epidemic diseases, by saving alive more of the infants and weaklings and by prolonging the lives of our insane and other defectives and degenerates. So while we are doing a commendable work in preventing death and increasing the average length of life, while we are pressing the present generation with improved health and longevity, the physician and the sanitarium at the same time are slowly but surely contributing to a subtle figuring of the civilized race. We have reversed the law of the jungle. We are putting a premium of survival upon the unfit and the weak. Nature marks the unfit for the grave—science intervenes and they live to reproduce themselves.

At the same time we are decreasing the death rate from microbic disease, the death rate from the habit disorders, or so called old age diseases, is largely increasing.

With the exception of pneumonia and influenza we are slowly mastering the germ caused epidemics. The great germ plagues are about to be wiped off the face of the earth. Of course, the great Black Plague—social disease—is still with us. We know how to control it, but we are denied the cooperation of the public. These disorders will not be mastered until false sentiment is dispersed and they, like other contagious and infectious disorders, are treated in a sane and scientific manner.

But the diseases which are on the increase are those due to our habits of living—the way we eat and dress and work and rest. They are the heart disorders, kidney troubles and high blood pressure ailments. They are due to the drugs we take in our habits, to our habits of overeating and overworking, as well as overworrying. These premature old age diseases are Bright's disease, heart failure and apoplexy, and are brought about by the microbes that lurk—often unsuspected—in some corner of the body, slowly poisoning us as the years go by. Such little foxes as diseased tonsils, abscessed teeth, infected gall, bladder and chronic appendicitis are the influences responsible for causing so many people to die in middle age.

Habits Exact a Heavy Toll.

We lose about a million people from premature death each year in the United States. Almost half of these people die of their "old age" or habit caused diseases, and, startling as it may seem, about 65,000 (as many as we lost in soldiers on the battlefields in the recent war) die of these "old age" disorders before they are 40 years of age—in this country.

The time has come to start a movement to interest the American public in postponing their own funerals. The habit of annual medical examination would do much to prevent untimely death, for it is very evident that a study of the human machine indicates that man was intended to live far in excess of even the proverbial three score and ten years. If we study the different animal species and compare the length of their prenatal development period with the length of their life, we discover an interesting rule which, when applied to the human species, indicates that nature intended the human being to live on the average of about 100 years.

I believe the time is at hand when a coroner's inquest to determine the cause and fix the responsibility will be called in cases of death under the age of fifty. If we don't become interested the State will take measures to prevent people committing suicide on the installment plan.

Proper methods of living and a more general acceptance of modern hygiene will enable the old men and women of another generation to be far more virile, active and efficient than the old people of this generation. The problem of self-preservation and hardening of the arteries will be more satisfactorily solved in the near future. But this improvement in the race will require measures in addition to a natural revival in personal hygiene. The public health movement of the future is not only going to teach the individual how to live, but also how to marry and to breed intelligently and in a manner that will improve the race.

A lot of sloppy stuff has gone out under the name of eugenics, and the so called eugenic marriages are more or less a joke and, after all, they are only hygienic at best. We cannot have eugenic marriages until we have registered human stock.

I recently heard of an Eastern Governor whose election was contested and who had no way of proving that he was 21 years of age, his birth never having been registered. He only got his seat because an old neighbor friend swore to the election commissioners that the year that the Governor was born she sold a blooded bulldog in New York city. They looked up the registry of the pup and found that it was 22 years old.

Human stock that is free from inheritable diseases will some day constitute the preferred catches on the matrimonial market. It won't be a case as much of how much money have you in the bank as it will be of how pure is your blood.

Simple mindedness and moronism started way back in pre-Revolutionary days when the Old World opened the doors of its jails and poorhouses to the young American colonies, and our lax laws have allowed these people to reproduce themselves in such enormous numbers that they constitute a national menace. These mental defectives are increasing all out of proportion to operation.

The desirable—the original—American stock is slowly but surely committing race suicide. We must pay more attention to personal hygiene. This and this only will decrease largely the enormous number of men and women who die prematurely from old age diseases. And we must by all means segregate or sterilize defectives and degenerates.

The Problem of Defectives.

Let us save a lot of valuable people in the present generation by hygiene and sanitary science and let us take speedy steps to lessen the reproduction of those weak and undesirable members of society who incidentally benefit by scientific advancements, but who, all through lack of regulative supervision, continue to reproduce themselves in such prodigious numbers. The public health movement of the future, then, to summarize, must be:

First, we must promulgate personal hygiene and seek to help people to live longer; second, we should not only seek to increase the race and to enable it to live longer, but we should try in a sane and simple manner to improve the race by not instituting a foolish programme of taking the romance out of courtship or by an effort of so-called scientific marriage, but by simple common sense plans of restricting the undue multiplication of defectives and degenerates.